

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Naofumi YAMAMOTO et al.
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 11/05/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of the documents A7-A9 is described in the present specification.

Document A5 discloses segmentation which is decided using the long area in the main scanning direction.

Documents A3 and A7 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Documents A4 and A8 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A6 discloses segmentation in which the input image area is divided into blocks consisted of some pixels, and characteristic values for microscopic structure are calculated in each block.

Document A10 discloses a hybrid image segmentation method using local texture analysis and global layout analysis is proposed.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided where available.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date November 5, 2003

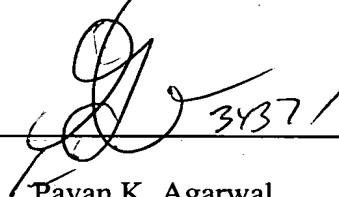
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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Agarwal', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the number '34371' is handwritten.

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: November 5, 2003 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	11/05/2003
				First Named Inventor	Naofumi YAMAMOTO
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet 1 of 1				Attorney Docket Number	016907-1580

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	6,424,742	B2	YAMAMOTO ET AL.	07/23/2002	
	A2	4,926,251		SEKIZAWA ET AL.	05/15/1990	
	A3	5,072,291		SEKIZAWA	12/10/1991	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	A4	EP	0 899 685	B1	KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA	10/23/2002	
	A5	JP	11-112796	A	SHARP CORP.	04/23/1999	Abstract
	A6	JP	7-288679	A	MINOLTA CO., LTD.	10/31/1995	Abstract
	A7	JP	60-204177	A	TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO.	10/15/1985	Abstract
	A8	JP	11-69150	A	TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO.	03/09/1999	Abstract
	A9	JP	58-3374	A	NIPPON DENSHIN DENWA KOSHA	01/10/1983	Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	A10	T. Fuchigami et al., "Hybrid Image Segmentation Based on Layout Analysis", The Institute of Image Electronics Engineers of Japan Annual Conference 2001, pages 53 and 54.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.